

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06088 242150Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 SSO-00 EPA-01 DODE-00
/024 W

-----040215 242157Z /62

O R 242112Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3361
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 6088

DEPARTMENT PASS OES-MR. SPEAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, SENV, PQ
SUBJECT: CANAL ZONE FOREST PRESERVE

REF: SPEAR-HINSON TELECON, 8/22/77

1. PER REQUEST REFTELCON, FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION
ON CANAL ZONE FOREST PRESERVE PROVIDED FOR SPEAR
BY PAUL COAMANELLA OF PANCANAL: BEGIN QUOTE:
THE CANAL ZONE FOREST PRESERVE WAS ESTABLISHED IN
MAY 1930 BY ORDER OF GOVERNOR HARRY BURGESS AND IS
ADMINISTERED AND PROTECTED BY THE CANAL ZONE
GOVERNMENT. THE LAND AREA OF THE PRESERVE ENCOMPASSES
NEARLY SIX SQUARE MILES (3,500 ACRES) OF MATURE TROPICAL
DECIDUOUS FOREST (HOLDRIDGE SYSTEM) LOCATED 10 MILES
NORTH OF BALBOA AND TOTALLY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE CANAL ZONE. THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE FOREST
PRESERVE ABUTS ON THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA-CANAL ZONE BORDER.
THE HISTORIC LAS CRUCES TRAIL, USED BY THE FORTY-NINERS TO
AVOID THE LONG OVERLAND TREK TO CALIFORNIA DURING THE
GOLD RUSH, PASSES THROUGH THE PRESERVE. HUNTING,

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INJURIING, OR MOLESTING OF WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS AND THEIR
NESTS IN THE PRESERVE IS PROHIBITED. THE CUTTING DOWN,
DESTROYING, INJURING OR CARRYING AWAY OF ANY TIMBER OR PLANTS
IN THE PRESERVE IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS AUTHORITY
OF THE GOVERNOR. AS PROVIDED BY THE CANAL ZONE CODE, WHOEVER
VILATES THESE PROVISIONS IS SUBJECT TO FINE
OR IMPRISONMENT. THE AREA, WHILE BIOLOGICALLY

COMPLEX, IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EXTENSIVE TO SUPPORT
MANY OF THE LARGE NATIVE ANIMALS, BUT MANY OF THE SMALL MAMMAL
AND REPTILE SPECIES ARE ABUNDANT. THE AVIAN FAUNA IS DIVERSE
AND COMMON DURING MUCH OF THE YEAR.

THE FOREST PRESERVE IS USED EXTENSIVELY BY RESIDENTS
OF THE CANAL ZONE AND PANAMA. THE CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT
MAINTAINS TWO RECREATIONAL SITES WITHIN THE PRESERVE.
THE LAS CRUCES TRAIL PICNIC AREA HAS A PARKING AREA WITH
AN ALUMINUM ROOF, OPEN-SIDED SHELTER AND THREE PICNIC TABLES
WITH BENCHES. THE GEORGE W. GREEN PARK AND PICNIC AREA
LOCATED ALONG MADDEN ROAD HAS SEVERAL PICNIC TABLES,
BENCHES AND RESTROOM FACILITIES. SEVERAL HIKING TRAILS
EXTEND OUT FROM EACH FACILITY.

THE AREAS OF PANAMA ADJOINING THE PRESERVE HAVE A LARGE
RURAL POPULATION AND THE AREA ALONG THE BORDER IS FREQUENTLY
USED BY ITINERANT AGRICULTURALISTS WHO CUT AND BURN
FOLIAGE TO CLEAR A LAND AREA FOR FARMING. THE CANAL ZONE
POLICE HAVE SIX BUSH PATROLMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION
OF THE TOTAL WILDERNESS AND LAKE AREA OF THE 550 SQUARE
MILE CANAL ZONE. THE NUMBERS OF INCURSIONS AND EXTENT OF
THE DAMAGE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS
AS POPULATION DENSITY ALONG THE BORDER AREAS HAS CONTINUED
TO GROW. END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORESTRY, AGREEMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA06088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-0445
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770829/aaaaaxtc.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b52d1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1500547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANAL ZONE FOREST PRESERVE
TAGS: PBOR, SENV, PQ, US, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b52d1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009